

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LONDON 04800 231432Z
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1858
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

S E C R E T LONDON 04800

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, LY, US
SUBJECT: LUNCHEON WITH LIBYAN AMBASSADOR

1. LIBYAN AMBASSADOR MISMARI WAS GUEST OF HONOR AT SMALL LUNCH GIVEN MARCH 22 BY CONSERVATIVE MP TAPSELL AT HIS FIRM, LARGE-SCALE STOCKBROKERS JAMES CAPEL, WHICH HAS COMMERCIAL INTERESTS IN LIBYA AND ARAB WORLD. PRESENT IN ADDITION TO EMBOFF WERE MEMBERS OF FIRM AND CONSERVATIVE MP LUCE. PREDICTABLY, IMMEDIATELY UPON ENCOUNTERING EMBOFF, MISMARI LAMENTED FACT THAT APPROACHES TO USG BY LIBYAN REGIME TO IMPROVE AND UPGRADE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS HAD NOT BEEN RECIPROCATED BY USG AND RELATIONS REMAINED "FROZEN". MISMARI REMARKED THAT AMERICAN VISITORS TO LIBYA FOUND LIBYANS VERY CORDIAL. EMBOFF AGREED THAT PERSONAL RELATIONS BETWEEN LIBYANS AND AMERICANS ARE GOOD, BUT POINTED OUT THAT THERE ARE SERIOUS DIFFERENCES BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS OF LIBYA AND U.S., AND THAT CHANNEL FOR DISCUSSING THEM IS U.S. CHARGE IN TRIPOLI.

2. TO PROBABLE SURPRISE OF MISMARI (AND CERTAIN SURPRISE OF EMBOFF), BRITISH HOSTS THEN SWITCHED SUBJECT OFF LIBYA AND DEVOTED ENTIRE LUNCHEON DISCUSSION TO SEMINAR

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SECRET

PAGE 02 LONDON 04800 231432Z

ON ARAB POSITION REGARDING A MIDDLE EAST PEACE SETTLEMENT AND POSITION OF PALESTINIANS IN PARTICULAR. MISMARI SIMPLY REITERATED COMPLETE LIBYAN SUPPORT FOR HARD-LINE PLO REJECTIONIST FRONT POSITION. HE DID NOT MAKE A VERY GOOD SHOWING WITH HIS WELL-INFORMED AND OPEN-MINDED BRITISH AUDIENCE, AND AFTER A WHILE CLAMMED UP. HE MAY HAVE THOUGHT HE WAS BEING GANGED UP ON. IN AD-

DITION TO CRITICIZING REJECTION FRONT ATTITUDE, TAPSELL
FRANKLY CRITICIZED QADHAFI FOR SUPPORTING AMIN IN
UGANDA.

3. AS LUNCH BROKE UP, MISMARI MADE POINT OF TELLING
EMBOFF HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE HIM AGAIN. PRELIMINARY AR-
RANGEMENTS WERE MADE FOR EMBOFF TO CALL ON MISMARI IN
NEAR FUTURE.

4. FCO, WHICH BRIEFED EMBOFF ON MISMARI BEFORE LUNCHEON,
THINKS MISMARI'S INFLUENCE WITH QADHAFI IS NOT AS GREAT
AS MISMARI TELLS US IT IS. FCO UNDERSTANDS KARUBI'S IN-
FLUENCE HAS SUPERSEDED WHAT INFLUENCE MISMARI HAD. FCO,
DISTURBED BY POSSIBLE INDICATIONS QADHAFI MAY BE CONTEM-
PLATING EXTENDING HIS MISCHIEF EVEN BEYOND THE SPHERE OF
HIS MORE IMMEDIATE NEIGHBORS, IS CLOSELY WATCHING THE
LIBYAN REGIME AND ITS EMBASSY HERE, PARTICULARLY THE
MULTIPLE REPRESENTATIVES OF LIBYAN INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES
HERE AND THEIR LINKS WITH PALESTINIAN TERRORISTS.

5. COMMENT: PRESENT GUIDANCE ON HOW TO DEAL WITH
MISMARI IS SUFFICIENT BUT ADDITIONAL COMMENT FROM
DEPARTMENT ON CURRENT STATE OF U.S.-LIBYAN RELATIONS IS
ALWAYS WELCOME.

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